

**Town Meeting Coordinating Committee Meeting
Minutes from October 7, 2008**

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting began at 6:38pm in the Community Room of the Police Station. Present were: Harry Brooks, Nonny Burack, Carol Gray, Peggy Roberts, Mary Streeter. Absent: Aaron Hayden & Judy Simpson.
2. **Minutes:** Mary moved and Harry seconded, to adopt the October 1, 2008 minutes with edits provided by members. All voted in favor of adopting the minutes.
3. **TMCC's Request to Delay Opening Date for Town Meeting to Nov. 10:** Peggy went to the Select Board meeting to request that Town Meeting start on November 10 instead of November 5. The Select Board voted to adopt this proposal.
4. **Posting of TMCC on Town Website:** Peggy asked for suggestions for items to go on the TMCC website. The following suggestions were made: How vacancies are filled between elections, what precincts have vacancies, the Zoning Primer, how to run for Town Meeting, the Rules of Town Meeting, a link to the League of Women Voters of Amherst's Town Meeting Handbook, the report from the Town Meeting Study Committee of 1997, reports of what TMCC has done, how to run for TMCC, nomination form for TMCC, handouts for the current town meeting, how to join the TMCC listserv, list of items on the Town Meeting library shelf, link to the zoning bylaws, guidelines for precinct meeting organizers (document to be created), 10 pointers for new Town Meeting members (document to be created). Mary suggested that past minutes of TMCC that are in hard copy form might be scanned and added to the website.
5. **Suggestion that there be a consent calendar:** Peggy emailed Harrison twice to suggest that a consent calendar be done, but has not received a reply.
6. **Latest draft of the warrant:** There are likely to be only 10 articles to consider in five nights. Of the articles listed in the draft warrant, the North Amherst PRP article is likely to be dropped, as is Article 9 because it may not be ready in time.
7. **Planning of Events Before Nov. 5 Special Town Meeting**
 - **Informational Forum on the Budget, Oct. 21, 7pm-9pm, ACTV:** Carol reported that she has found that many possible speakers are extremely busy and unavailable. Only Guilford Mooring had called back to say he would be able to be on a panel. Carol suggested either we skip the forum for this fall or that we do a topic such as ballot questions related to money that would have a direct impact on Town Meeting business such as Question one on the state ballot and the CPA question on the local ballot. There was extensive discussion on this topic. Nonny thought it wasn't necessary to do a forum on the ballot questions since the League of Women Voters already did such a forum. Carol made a motion that the committee let her investigate whether it would be possible to get a speaker (or two speakers, one from each side) on Question one and possibly the CPA question and that the forum be postponed by one week to October 28. It was pointed out that

that was the night that several precinct meetings were scheduled. Carol suggested we move those precinct meetings to after the elections, to Thursday, Nov. 6. The sense of the meeting was that it made sense to move the precinct meetings because people will be less busy after the elections and there will be more information available later in the timeline. After much discussion, a vote was taken on Carol's motion. The vote was three in favor (Harry, Mary & Carol) and two against (Peggy & Nonny).

- **Warrant Review, Oct. 23, 7:30pm-9:30pm, Middle School Auditorium:** Peggy said planning for this would be easy since it's such a short warrant.
- **Bus Tour, October 26, Sunday, 2-4pm:** Considering the short warrant, Carol suggested that we not do a bus tour after all. All agreed with this.
- **Precinct Meetings:** Peggy said there should be publicity for the precinct meeting schedule, including an announcement on ACTV. All agreed.

8. **Packets to Town Meeting Members:** The deadline for the first packet is Oct. 15. The deadline for the second packet is October 23.

7. **Scheduling of TMCC Meetings:** The next TMCC meeting will be Monday, Columbus Day, October 13 from 10:30 am-12 noon, in the Community Room of the police station.

8. **Adjournment:** Nonny moved and Mary seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Documents Distributed at the meeting:

1. Minutes from October 1, 2008.
2. Agenda for today's meeting.
3. Latest draft of the Town Meeting Warrant (dated 10/3/08)
4. Nov. 5, 2008 Fall Special Town Meeting Checklist

Carol Gray, Secretary